

POLARIS AND OTHER CONFLICTS

Written by

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FADE IN

EXT. FOREST THICKET - DAY - JUNE

A particularly ominous tree line. Lush green leaves sway in the wind contrasting significantly with an AUDIBLE SILENCE. All is still except

The crunching of leaves underfoot. Unsteady and without pattern, like a drunk man stumbling.

EXT. MONUMENT - DAY

A Buddhist shrine stands tall in the middle of a large field. An ocean of grass and tulips sway and flow to the will of the wind.

LAUGHING

EXT. RUGGED CAMPSITE - DAY

A couple of trees, a large sitting rock and a makeshift fireplace is surrounded by three young adults who laugh and exchange pleasant conversation.

A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN, EVE, 20's sticks her tongue out revealing TWO BLOTTER TABS.

Someone's taking a little nature trip.

RODNEY, 20's, a bit too handsome for his own goods, finishes a fit of laughter taking a breath, maybe wiping a tear.

RODNEY

It's a *classic*. It's a classic.

Silence, anticipation

EVE

I'm nervous

ABLE

Don't be

ABLE, mid 20's and stocky, angles closer to EVE

ABLE (CONT'D)

Shouldn't be too long now. Believe me, this'll BLOW YOUR MIND

Rodney makes a mind blowing motion.

RODNEY

Don't worry babe, if anything happens I'll be here for you.

They lock eyes and smile. Sweet.

Able continues on.

ABLE

So, I've dragged you two out to the middle of nowhere. Dosed you up properly. Now, as is tradition, I must tell you the same story I was told.

RODNEY

Oh boy. No scary stories huh?

Able at the same time blows a raspberry and rolls his eyes.

ABLE

Not scary. Interesting.

EVE

What's it about?

ABLE

It's about the time my oldest brother came out here and tripped.

Silence blankets the group. They stare down. Touchy subject.

ABLE (CONT'D)

Well, maybe not then...

EVE

No. Tell us! If you're comfortable.

Able winks

ABLE

Only if you want to hear it. Tell me Evelyn. Tell me you want to hear it.

A moment.

EVE

Tell me the story Able.

Able looks up at the sky. Reminiscing

ABLE

My brother talked about coming to this spot at night after a tough day and just staring up at the stars. He always imagined they were fake. Like a tapestry.

Off Rod and Eve's look

ABLE (CONT'D)

One day when he had taken a particularly heavy dose he had a vision.

FOREST THICKET - DAY

Heavy, dirty hiking boots make their way across the forest floor aimlessly.

CRUNCH CRUNCH

ABLE (V.O.)

After he got kicked out he needed money, so he went to work for this farmer out in Glastonbury. He chopped wood, corded it. The man paid him well..

CRUNCH CRUNCH

RUGGED CAMPSITE - CONTINUOUS

Eve perks up staring out into the forest. Alarmed.

EVE

What's that. Who's there?

RODNEY

What?

Silently, a figure stumbles through the wood. Dark, dirty disheveled but at a distance. Eve's eyes burn at the site.

She points.

EVE

Who's that.

The figure shambles closer almost like a zombie. Able and Rod both look in the apparitions direction. Seemingly right at it. Rodney jumps up and takes a step forward.

With the shadow man in view just over his shoulder he turns back around to eve.

RODNEY

Who's who? There's no one there
babe.

Eve's frozen, eyes locked on the subject of her fear.

ABLE

Deep breaths. You're just tripping!
There's nothing there

She squeezes her eyes shut. Opens them to see..

EXT. RUGGED CAMPSITE - NIGHT

Nothing there. No Rodney either. Just Eve and Able, sitting around a dim fire. The flame light illuminating there solemn faces.

Able takes a long swig of the Jack Daniels. Throws it down contemptuously. Solid glass hitting earth.

ABLE

The farmer was very wealthy and he owed his wealth to a mysterious man who would come and pray at this shrine.

EXT. MONUMENT

The shrine looms in the middle of a field for a brief couple of seconds.

RUGGED CAMPSITE

ABLE

He claimed it had these reality bending properties. That the man wasn't a man, but a spirit. It was because of these two that the farmer was wealthy and it was because of these two, now, that my brother was.

Eve's ears pick up the sound of isolated rustling behind her, deep in the wood. She stares, catatonic at the dark maw of the forest

ABLE (V.O.)
 So the day came when the farmer
 requested one last favor of my
 brother. He was to sit at the
 monument and wait.

EXT. MONUMENT/MONTAGE - STOCK FOOTAGE

Closer on the monument as the wind blows.

ABLE (V.O.)
 So he waited and waited and waited.
 He waited until nighttime. He
 didn't eat, didn't sleep.

BOTTLES SMASHING ON ASPHALT

LEAVES CRUNCHING UNDERFOOT

FIGURES STAGGERING THROUGH THE WOODS

THE MONUMENT

ABLE (V.O.)
 He waited until he forgot why he
 was waiting.

As close to the monument as we can get. Two arms reach for it
 out of frame.

ABLE (V.O.)
 And you know what happened next?

Eve reaches out and touches the monument. In the dead of
 night, illuminated only by the moonlight.

EXT. MONUMENT - NIGHT

The wind audibly blows. Eves sits, alone, back against the
 monument. Her features are barely distinguishable.

She sits for an uncomfortable moment.

EVE
 He woke up in that same spot of the
 woods, under that same night sky
 with the stars that seemed like a
 tapestry.

Sobbing in the night

EVE (CONT'D)
I like that story able.
(imitating Rodney)
It's a classic.

We pull out to see her and the shrine surrounded by shadow
men. All Painfully upright. All facing her.

FADE OUT